

- ☐ After issuance of a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the issue fee, and accompanied by: (1) a Rule 97(e) statement, (2) a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement, and (3) a fee (Rule 97(d)).

II. Rule 97(e) Statement (check one if required by item checked above)

- ☐ Each item contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

- ☐ No item contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application nor, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was any such item known by any individual designated in Rule 56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

III. Copies of the References (check one or both as applicable)

- ☒ Copies of 2 (insert "all" or number of enclosed references) listed references are enclosed.

- ☒ Copies of 16 (insert "all" or number of references not enclosed) listed references are not enclosed because they are not required pursuant to Rule 98(d). The listed references were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in application serial number 09/008,043, filed January 16, 1998, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date.

IV. Rule 98(a)(3) Statement for Non-English Language References
(if required)

Pursuant to Rule 98(a)(3), the following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in the English language: JP 61-185034 was cited by the examiner in the parent case of the present application. The examiner provided an English-language abstract. It is believed that the relevance of this document can be discerned from the English-language abstract and drawings.

V. Mailing Certificate (check one)

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Please charge any fees required for consideration of the
art cited herein to our deposit account no. 01-0857.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J J Horn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John J. Horn
Reg. No. 28,803

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